

the benefits provided in these programs. They deserve to live their retirement years with dignity. We should not ask seniors to sacrifice benefits before asking the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations to pay their fair share.

COMMEMORATING THE BOMBING OF THE USS "COLE"

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 39 wounded and the memory of the 17 killed who were aboard the USS *Cole* when it was attacked by terrorists this day 11 years ago. I have the privilege of representing Norfolk Naval Station, the home port of the USS *Cole*.

On the morning of October 12, 2000, the USS *Cole* was moored off the coast of Aden, Yemen. At around 11:18 a.m., a small craft approached the port side of the ship and exploded, ripping a 40-by-40-foot gash through the steel of the destroyer. The ship's galley, where the crew was gathering for lunch, took a direct hit.

The attack was organized and executed and planned by Osama bin Laden. In his death, justice was served, but at the dinner table of 17 American families, there sits an empty chair. What should be a joyous family gathering is tempered by the loss of a loved one.

So we pause today, and rightly so, to honor and remember those who stand boldly in defense of America, in defense of freedom. We must meet our deep obligation to them, to our veterans, and to the families of the fallen.

May God forever bless the crew and families of the USS *Cole*, past and present, and may God forever bless the United States of America.

REJECT PROPOSED BENEFIT CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget would turn the American Dream into a nightmare for millions of senior citizens—eliminating Medicare, threatening Social Security benefits, and turning Medicaid into a block grant. Those same proposals are now being discussed in the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

Seniors are terrified, and they are speaking out against cuts—people like Debby from Wilmette, Illinois, a public school teacher whose husband was diagnosed with MS and was forced to sell his business at a loss. She says, "My husband only gets \$1,800 a month now. There is no way we will be able to keep our house and pay our bills. We are worried."

Or Nirlean from Chicago, who lives on her Social Security check. "Medicare helps with my medication. I'm liv-

ing month to month, and I always run out of food before the next month. I really miss getting the cost-of-living increase, because my rent takes half my income."

Let's listen to Debby and Nirlean and to millions of seniors. Let's reject benefit cuts.

LET'S PUT THE GULF BACK TO WORK

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge the administration to issue drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico in a more timely and efficient manner.

As demonstrated at today's Natural Resources hearing, there is a critical need to correct the regulatory backlog. The long-term effects of the moratorium and subsequent regulatory slowdown will lead to decreased development levels in the Gulf of Mexico, which will reduce oil and gas production levels and associated employment and economic activity in the Gulf South's economy. Recent reports show that up to 20 deepwater drilling rigs could leave the Gulf of Mexico due to the slow, uncertain pace of the permit process. Continued regulatory uncertainty will only exacerbate this trend as operators reallocate resources to other major offshore provinces.

President Obama has said over and over that jobs and the economy are the administration's number one priority.

Mr. President, the Gulf of Mexico sits ready to work. Let's put her to work for America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

AMPSURF

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Association of Amputee Surfers and its founder, Dana Cummings.

On Saturday, I participated in AmpSurf's sixth annual Operation Restoration on Pismo Beach in California. Together, disabled veterans and other people with disabilities took to the water and learned to surf with the help of the local surfers. This event proved that the power of the ocean can inspire, educate, and rehabilitate the disabled, especially our veteran warriors.

Earlier this year, I met one of those veteran warriors at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was recovering from injuries he sustained from an IED attack in Afghanistan. Before he'd enlisted in the Marines, Cody had volunteered with AmpSurf right there on Pismo Beach. So it was a special treat to see

his mother at the beach on Saturday, supporting all those in the water as her son rehabilitates.

I know Cody and so many others are resolved and determined to get back out in the water, and they'll be able to do it with the help of AmpSurf. Cody's story brings AmpSurf's wonderful cause full circle.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring AmpSurf and what it does for our veterans and for those who share the powerful forces of sacrifice, perseverance, and healing.

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IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the President has proposed the American Jobs Act to get people back to work. The bill will revitalize American manufacturing and invest in infrastructure to create jobs now.

It contains proven ideas for job creation that received bipartisan support, and economists agree. Mark Zandi at Moody's says passing this bill will create almost 2 million jobs and won't add a dime to the deficit.

So why aren't we passing the bill now? Sadly, last night, Senate Republicans stood with House Republicans to stop the American Jobs Act from even coming to a vote. In fact, in 40 weeks in which they have been in control of the House, Republican leaders have never called a vote on a jobs bill. It's time we put the country first in the face of this tough economy.

Last month, I welcomed some amazing World War II veterans to their memorial here in D.C., who shared with me their great challenges of their time, how they set their differences aside and pulled together for the good of the country. Now, Mr. Speaker, with the great economic challenges we face today, it is time for us to pull together for the good of the country.

PRAISING LAWRENCE COMPANY COTTONWOOD

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a not-for-profit organization in Kansas that I recently visited. Cottonwood, located in Lawrence, Kansas, provides a valuable service to our country by establishing employment and living opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities. Over the years, Cottonwood has earned a reputation for quality services and care as a community service provider.

At Cottonwood, workers help make a number of consumer products, including industrial-strength cargo straps